Paltry Collections on Armed Forces Flag Day

341. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of publicity and adequate initiative on the part of his Ministry, there have been paltry collections of fund on the Armed Forces Flag Day in the States;

(b) the amount collected on Armed Forces Flag Day during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 in the country;

(c) whether Government propose to disband the collections on that Day in view of poor response from the people; and

(d) the initiatives Government have taken to step up collection of fund by providing adequate publicity to the Armed Forces Flag Day?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Collection for the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund are made by the State/ UT Governments and the Kendirya Sainik Board. During the years 1996 and 1997, the collections for the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund by the States and Kendriya Sainik Board were as under. The figures for collection during 1998 will be available in 1999.

Year	Collection through the States	Collection through Kendriya Sainik Board
1996	Rs. 10,87,95,226/-	Rs. 3,93,855/-
1997	Details awaited from States	Rs. 14,80,914/-

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to discontinue collection of funds on the Armed Forces Flag Day. Adequate publicity is given through newspapers, Doordarshan and Akashvani. The Governors and the Chief Ministers of the States have been requested by Raksha Mantri, through letters, this year to take personal interest in enthusing the people to contribute more generously for the Fund.

Special Counter Insurgency Allowance for Soldiers

342. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his predecessor had announced on 21st July, 1997 for an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 7.5 lakh each for relatives of the soldiers killed in counter insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East States as also the special Counter Insurgency Allowance for soldiers as recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission would be improved and decided within a week;

(b) whether such allowances have been approved and are being paid; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) During his visit to Chandigarh and meeting with war widows, the former Defence Minister, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had announced that the Government is considering the increase in ex-gratia payment to the next of kin(s) of Service personnel killed in counter-insurgency operations to Rs. 7.5 lakhs.

Based on the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay commission, the Government have increased the amount of ex-gratia payment to the next of kin(s) of Armed Forces personnel who die in harness in the performance of their bonafide official duties. The following ex-gratia lumpsum compensation will be paid to the next of kin(s) of the personnel:

(a) Death occuring due to accidents in the course of performance of duties.	Rs. 5.00 lakhs
(b) Death occuring in the course of performance of duties attributable to acts of violence by terrorists, anti-social elements etc.	Rs. 5.00 lakhs
(c) Death occuring during (i) enemy action in international war or border skirmishes; and (ii) action against militants, terrorists extremists, etc.	Rs. 7.50 lakhs

The above provisions are applicable to all cases of death in harness occuring on or after 1st August, 1997.

Besides the following rates of Special Compensatory Counter insurgency Allowance for Defence personnel as recommended by the Fifth Central Pay Commission have already been implemented by the Government w.e.f. 1st August, 1997:

Officers		Personnel below Officer rank (PBOR)	
Lt. Col & above	Rs. 1300 pm	JCOs	Rs. 900 pm
Maj	Rs. 1200 pm	Hav	Rs. 600 pm
Capt	Rs. 1100 pm	NK/Sep	Rs. 500 pm
Sublatern	Rs. 1050 pm		

भारत -पाक सीमा पर होने वाली झड़पें

343. **श्री मुनव्वर हसनः** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) गत छः माह के दौरान सीमा पर पाक सैनिको के साथ हुई झड़पों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उक्त झड़पों से दोनों और हुए नुकसान का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) पहला हमला किसने किया था;

(घ) क्या दोनों देशों की सचिव स्तरीय वार्ता में सीमा पर बार-बार हो रही झड़पों को रोकने के उपायों के संबंध में भी चर्चा की गई; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) से (ङ) जम्मू तथा कश्मीर की अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सीमा, नियंत्रण रेखा और साल्टोरो रेंज से लगे क्षेत्र में गोलाबारी होना आम बात है। पाकिस्तान, घुसपैठ को बढ़ावा देने और जम्मू और कश्मीर को झगड़े के मुद्दे के रूप में दर्शाने के उद्देश्य से अकारण गोलाबारी करता रहता है। गोलाबारी की सभी घटनाओं में भारतीय सैनिकों द्वारा समुचित उत्तर दिया जाता है।

मई से अक्तूबर, 1998 की छह माह की अवधि में वास्तविक भू-स्थिति रेखा पर गोलाबारी की 176, नियंत्रण रेखा पर 1751 और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सीमा पर 174 घटनाएं हुई। पाकिस्तान के 574 व्यक्तियों के मारे जाने/हताहत होने की खबर थी। हमारे 68 सुरक्षा कार्मिक तथा 35 सिविलियन मारे गए थे। दो सौ तिरासी सुरक्षा कार्मिक और 124 सिविलियन घायल हुए थे।

जहां तक पंजाब, राजस्थान और गुजरात सीमा का संबंध है, पाक रेंजरों की ओर से अकारण गोलाबारी की दो घटनाएं हुई, जिनमें सीमा सुरक्षा बल का एक कार्मिक मारा गया और दो घायल हुए।

भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच 15 से 18 अक्तूबर, 1998 तक इस्लामाबाद में हुई विदेश सचिव स्तरीय बातचीत के दौरान भारत ने पाकिस्तान के साथ सीमा पार से होने वाली गोलीबारी का विषय जोरदार ढंग से उठाया था। भारत ने यह उल्लेख किया था कि पाकिस्तानी